**Attraction**

**Draw near to God,**

**and he will draw near to you.**

***(James 4:8)***

**Men attract not that which they want, but that which they are. *(James Allen)***

**Altering morals with a magnet: Scientists identified an area of the brain responsible for moral reasoning -- and managed to scramble its judgments by using a magnet. Under normal conditions, we tend to make moral judgments about people based partly on their intentions: Did they make a mistake, or did they intend to hurt someone or cause damage? Previous research showed that this calculus unfolds in a brain region called the right temporoparietal junction, or RTPJ, just behind the right ear. To better understand how the RTPJ works, MIT researchers asked volunteers to weigh the morality of acts depicted in various stories. In one, a woman puts a spoon of white powder in her friend's coffee, thinking it's sugar. The powder turns out to be poison, and the friend dies. While subjects listened to these stories, scientists applied a painless magnetic pulse to the scalp above the RTPJ, scrambling the electronic signals of neurons there. With this moral center inoperative, subjects gave less emphasis to intent and judged morality mostly on whether actions caused harm. So they were more inclined to condemn the woman in the poisoning accident for killing her friend. "You think of morality as being a really high-level behavior,": researcher Liane Young tells BBC.com. To be able to apply a magnetic field to a specific brain region and change people's moral judgments is really astonishing. *(The Week magazine, April 16, 2010)***

**A long-haired young man sitting in a barber shop was rather alarmed to see the barber wave a huge magnet over his head. "It's not a new procedure," said the barber. "I'm just looking for my scissors." *(Charivari, in La Gaceta Ilustrada, Spain)***

**Vampire bats seem to develop their own tastes in blood, They repeatedly return only to certain victims. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Grandma: “What’s that thing on your wrist?” Grandpa: “It’s a magnetic bracelet. It’s supposed to restore the body’s energy flow, increase circulation and ease the pain of stiff and sore joints. Plus, it seems to accumulate paper clips and eating utensils/” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**Americans are far more remarkable than we give ourselves credit for. We’ve been so busy damning ourselves for years. We’ve done it all, and yet we don’t take credit for it. If we opened the floodgates tomorrow, the whole world would pour in here. Last year we took in more than a million people from other nations. Now, if we’re so bad as we say we are, why are they coming here? To be corrupted, to be dumb, to be brutes – the way we describe ourselves to others? No, they’re coming here because we’re excellent, because we offer freedom, because we offer opportunities. *(Ray Bradbury)***

**Like a hummingbird following fragrance to a flower, the male sperm follows chemical attractants to find the female egg. Researchers now have identified a key part of the process and say the discovery could lead to a new form of contraception that does not depend on hormones. In laboratory tests, researchers have found that human sperm has a receptor, or chemical sensor, that causes the sperm to swim vigorously toward concentrations of a natural attractant. The precise compound present in the human female reproductive tract has not been identified, the researchers said. *(Paul Recer, in the Rocky Mountain News, March 28, 2003)***

**A great nation ought not to be a hammer, but a magnet. *(G. K. Chesterton)***

**Cut a magnet in half and each half becomes a magnet. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**It is difficult to design a place that will not attract people. What is remarkable is how often this has been accomplished. *(William H. Whyte, urbanist)***

**My, you have attractive DNA: When it comes to romance, our genes may be real matchmakers. A new study has found that married couples have more DNA in common than random pairs of people, the Los Angeles Times reports. The phenomenon may have important implications for our understanding of mating and evolution, as genes can no longer be assumed to mix randomly. Previous studies have shown that people tend to choose spouses who are similar to themselves in categories like social class, race, body type, and education, collectively known as assortative mating. "But there's been a question about whether we mate at random with respect to genetics," says behavioral scientist Benjamin Domingue. The researchers drew on the genetic data of 825 American couples, analyzing their single-nucleotide polymorphisms -- points where the DNA sequences of individuals diverge -- and found fewer differences between married people than between pairs of randomly selected individuals. But while genetics was a factor, it measured at only about a third of the strength of educational compatibility, suggesting that in matters of the heart, social factors still hold sway. *(The Week magazine, June 6, 2014)***

**A grateful heart is a magnet for miracles. *(Posted by actress Roma Downey on her Instagram))***

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**Earth’s magnetic field has flip-flopped, north and south, at least 171 times. The reversals have been confirmed in rocks in many parts of the world and dated by fossils and radioactive isotopes. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 331)***

**Earth’s magnetic field has been weakening. It seems to have lost 15 percent of its strength since 1670. At the present rate of increase, it will reach zero in 2,000 more years. Between the years 3500 and 4500, the magnetic field will not be sufficiently strong to ward off charged radiation from outer space. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 326)***

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**It is a comparatively recent insight that light travels from the object to the eye. Until about 400 years ago, it was thought that there was “something” in the eye that went out and saw the object. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 322)***

**Stapelia flowers smell like rotting meat, and the leaves look like the skin of a dead animal. This attracts flies that feed on decaying flesh. The hungry flies then pollinate the flowers. (The Diagram Group, in Funky, Freaky Facts, p. 42)**

**Woman: “I'm sorry, but nothing about you attracts me.” Man: “They say that the thing that first attracts you to a person is the thing you end up hating about them. Maybe what we have here is the basis for a solid relationship.” *(J. C. Duffy, in The Fusco Brothers comic strip)***

**At the turn of the century there lived a famous skeptic by the name of Robert Ingersoll. He went around the country preaching against Christ and God and the Bible and the Resurrection and a future life. One day he was waxing eloquent about the fact that there was no resurrection, there was no future life, there was no judgment, and there was no heaven and hell. At that point a drunk in the back of the auditorium wove his way to his feet and said, “Atta boy, Bobby, you tell ‘em. We’re counting on you!” *(D. Joseph Kennedy)***

**Storms come, and they are so personal, they seem to know your address and have the key to your house. *(Rev. Jesse Jackson)***

**MIRROR IMAGE: People choose friends similar to themselves, according to research published in the journal Group Processes and Intergroup Relations. It all boils down to like attracts like. *(Compiled by Margena A. Christian, in Ebony magazine)***

**The message in stress and challenge for the most part is that we have attracted ourselves into a given situation to learn something valuable that enriches our soul. (*Tom Skalitzky, Unity minister)***

**On close inspection, the mosquito may find you unappealing, or may simply prefer your spouse. It depends on her reaction to your body chemistry. *(Richard Conniff, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Fisher Price is recalling 21,000 of their cookie-shaped magnets because children have been swallowing them. It’s a big problem. Apparently, parents noticed their kids sticking to the refrigerator and had to do something about it. *(Conan O'Brien, in Rocky Mountain News)***

**Schopenhauer was the philosopher who peddled the “opposites attract” notion. For example, he thought tall men prefer short women and short women prefer thin men. This notion has been pretty well debunked. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**First boy: “How can I get Jenny to like me?” Second boy: “It’s all in the pheromones. When two people are attracted to each other, it’s mostly due to the pheromones! It’s like a biochemical reaction!” First boy: “So I’ve got to get Jenny to react to my pheromones? How am I supposed to do that?” Third boy: “Try changing your socks, dude.” First boy: “Amen, brother!” *(in Big Nate comic strip)***

**How plants seduce bats: Plants often flaunt bright colors and strong scents to attract bird and insect pollinators, but now scientists have discovered one that uses sound to beckon bats. Marcgravia evenia, a rare vine in the rain forests of Cuba, hangs a satellite-dish-shaped leaf or two over its flowers. When bats send out echolocation signals, the leaf bounces the sound back louder and from more angles than flatter foliage does. That, in turn, alerts bats to the presence of nectar; in the lab, the dish-shaped leaf drew bats about twice as fast as plants with flatter leaves. "That leaf is like a big neon sign over a restaurant," Brock Fenton, a bat researcher at the University of Western Ontario, tells ScienceNOW.org. "It shows us how good plants can be at manipulating bats." Luring bats helps the vine propagate, because the more bats feed, the more pollen they spread. Ulrich Kutschera, a biologist at the University of Kassel in Germany, says the finding is a surprising example of co-evolution, in which adaptations change the way species interact with each other. "Darwin," he says, "would have been thrilled." *(The Week magazine, August 19-26, 2011)***

**Austrian transportation officials are planning to expand a pilot program in which druids utilize magnets to prevent road accidents. A druid priest was called in after a dozen fatal accidents occurred at a particular stretch of highway; after he installed a monolith made of plastic and a large magnet, there hasn’t been a fatal accident at the site in two years. Arch-druid llmar Tessmann says the monolith may work by restoring normal, “terrestrial radiation,” which he claims was disrupted by “negative” radiation from cell phone towers. “If you ask me to give you a scientific explanation,” he says. “I can’t. *(The Week magazine, June 4, 2010)***

**It’s surprising how many of our current social problems all seem to know where I live. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**In studies, men find a woman much more sexually attractive when she is dressed in red, and will spend more money on a date with her. Red does not, however, affect a man’s perceptions about her likeability, intelligence, or kindness. (Don Voorhees, in The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 126)**

**In terms of human relationships, we hear that “opposites attract” and “like attracts like.” Which do you think is the more successful pairing? (J.T.) I think that the lower our self-esteem, the more we want someone different from ourselves; the higher our self-esteem, the more we want someone like ourselves. And couples with great self-respect are surely going to be happier. *(Marilyn Vos Savant, in Parade magazine)***

**How to have a rotten marriage: When it comes to choosing mate, studies have shown, people gravitate to a partner with personalities and values similar to their own. But money is another matter: New research has found that penny-pinchers and spendthrifts often wind up together, and that it's not always for the best. Researchers analyzed several studies in which married couples interviewed apart were asked to describe their feelings about spending money. The more of a spendthrift or tightwad each spouse was, the more likely he or she was to have married someone with the opposite approach to money -- perhaps out of hope their mate would balance them out. But the researchers found that these marriages of opposites result in a lot of conflict and little long-term satisfaction. That hardly should come as a surprise, researcher Eli Finkel tells The New York Times, but "we seem to have approximately no introspective accuracy as to what it is we want in a partner." *(The Week magazine, September 18, 2009)***

**Now it's claimed people, too, sense direction by magnetism. British students were blindfolded, driven in circles, then asked to point north. Almost all got it right. The test was repeated, but with magnets taped to their heads. None got it right. Researchers think we may lose some sensitivity to directional magnetism as we age. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Women who ovulate prefer the scent of, and are sexually attracted to, men who have immune-system genes that differ from their own. Taking the Pill shifts a woman’s preferences toward men that have similar genes, so that when she goes off the Pill, her attraction for her mate may go off too. It’s best to pick a partner before going on the Pill. (Don Voorhees, in The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 129)**

**It’s unfair! Why can older men still be attracted when women their age can no longer attract? *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**There is little chance that meteorologists can solve the mysteries of weather until they gain an understanding of the mutual attraction of rain and weekends. *(Arnot L. Sheppard, Jr., in Reader's Digest)***

**Why opposites attract: We tend to trust people who look like us, says a new study. But we don't want to sleep with them. Psychologists at Scotland's Aberdeen University showed 144 students a series of paired photos of two men or two women. One face in each pair was digitally altered to resemble each subject the way an opposite-sex sibling would. When asked which face in the pair seemed the most trustworthy, most students picked the people who looked like them. But when it came to sexual attraction, most picked those with different facial characteristics. Researchers theorize that the results reflect evolutionary survival mechanisms. "These results back the notion that people trust kin," researcher Dr. Lisa DeBruine of McMaster University in Canada tells BBCNews.com, "but avoid them in a sexual setting, due to the costs of inbreeding. *(The Week magazine, April 15, 2005)***

**Rejoice and men will seek you, grieve and they turn and go; they want full measure of all your pleasure, but they do not want your woe! *(Ella Wheeler Wilcox)***

**When everything is coming your way, you’re in the wrong lane. *(Steven Wright, comedian)***

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